

**Amendments to the Specification:**

Please make the following amendments to the specification (material to be inserted in replacement paragraphs or sections is in **bold and underline**, and material to be deleted is in ~~strikeout~~ or (if the deletion is of five or fewer consecutive characters or would be difficult to see) in double brackets [[ ]].

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 1, line 4, with the following rewritten paragraph:

This application is a continuation of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. **09/777,343** [[\_\_\_\_\_]], filed February 5, 2001, ~~entitled INTEGRATED SAMPLE PROCESSING SYSTEM, and naming Samuel A. Marquiss, Christopher G. Cesar, Jon F. Petersen, David P. Stumbo, Amer El Hage, Glen R. Edwards, Douglas N. Modlin, Lev J. Leytes, and Samuel Burd as inventors,~~ which is a continuation of PCT Patent Application Serial No. PCT/US00/12277, filed May 3, 2000. Both of these applications are incorporated herein by reference.